(c) A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

(d) Double line already exists between Lucknow-Utraitia and Zafrabad-Varanasi sections. The doubling works which are in progress on the above mentioned sections are targeted for completion during 2005-06. The balance doubling of 148 kms. of Lucknow-Varanasi is under process of approval.

Modernisation of Stations in Assam

3493. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations modernised in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for this purpose during this period; and

(c) the number of railway stations proposed to be modernised in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (a) At 59 stations, augmentation of "Passenger Amenities" have been done inconnection with Modernisation of stations.

(b) The Railway Budget is prepared Railway zone-wise and not State-wise. Similarly, it is not possible to work out the figures of allotment/ expenditure for each individual Railway station since number of works for provision of passenger amenities at various stations are clubbed on the basis of various categories like types of amenities proposed, Railway Zone/ Division under which the stations fall etc. Improvement/augmentation of amenities for passenger at stations including works of up gradation of station as model station are carried out under plan head "Passenger Amenities". As Northeast Frontier Railway serve the State of Assam. The allocation/expenditure under plan head "Passenger Amenities" during last three years under Northeast Frontier Railway is under:—

Rs. in cr.

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
19.68	16.69	9.91	14.60	12.18	11.88

(c) 24 stations.

Cost of road overbridges and underbridges

3494. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand to meet 75 per cent of the cost of road over and under bridges for their early completion by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways had agreed to meet the 75 percent cost of the above works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There have been demands for the Railways to bear increased share of cost of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in varying proportions from present 50% to upto 100%. The matter was taken up by Standing Committee on Railways 14th Lok Sabha while considering the Demands for Grants 2004-05 of the Ministry of Railways. The Committee has recommended that Railway to undertake the complete work of ROB including approaches subject to condition that Railway's share from Central Road Fund (CRF) is enhanced and Railways be exempted from paying diesel/petrol cess and instead be allowed to utilize the same fund towards construction of ROB/RUBs. The committee further directed that this suggestion be forwarded to Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for their consideration.

Accordingly, matter has been referred to Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and also a Draft Cabinet Note regarding enhancement of Railway share from (CRF) has been circulated to concerned Ministries for their views and onward submission of proposal to Cabinet.